



July 21, 2004

Felon is sentenced to federal prison in gun thefts

A federal judge has sentenced **Leo Bergeron**, 23, to 57 months in prison for firearms offenses in connection with the theft of five guns in Woonsocket last year.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Bergeron, of no permanent address, has been detained since his arrest.

In April, Bergeron pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms and possessing stolen firearms. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that, on April 25, 2003, Bergeron stole five firearms from an apartment on Knight Street in Woonsocket: four semi-automatic rifles and a .40 caliber pistol.

Bergeron subsequently sold the guns, which Woonsocket Police recovered from the Blackstone River on May 31. He was arrested on June 23 after an investigation by **Woonsocket Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**.

Prosecutors from the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office jointly reviewed the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. In October, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging him with illegally possessing the guns. Bergeron has several prior criminal convictions, including a felony conviction for domestic assault.